

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel without prejudice claim 48 and amend claims 16, 20 and 49 as indicated in the following list of pending claims.

**PENDING CLAIMS**

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A stent assembly, comprising:

a) an expandable tubular stent body which has a longitudinal axis, which is formed of a plurality of ring sections oriented perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and having an open undulated structure, which has at least one connecting support member extending between adjacent ring sections and which has a cover connecting member with at least one penetrating element formed integral with at least one connecting support member; and

b) a stent cover which is disposed over at least a portion of the tubular stent body, which is secured to the tubular stent body by the cover connecting member with the penetrating element of the cover connector extending through the stent cover and extending over an outer surface of the stent cover.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The stent assembly of claim 16 wherein the cover on the stent has a cylindrical shape with a first longitudinally oriented edge abutting a second longitudinally oriented edge.

19. (Previously Presented) The stent assembly of claim 16 wherein the cover on the stent has a cylindrical shape with a first longitudinally oriented edge overlapping a second longitudinally oriented edge.

20. (Currently Amended) A stent assembly, comprising an expandable tubular stent body which has a longitudinal axis, which is formed of a plurality of ring sections oriented perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and having an open undulated structure, which has at least one connecting support member extending between adjacent ring sections and which has a cover connecting member with at least The stent assembly of claim 16 wherein the cover connecting member has two penetration elements, a first penetration element which extends through the cover at a first location on the cover adjacent to the first edge, and a second penetration element which extends through the cover at a second location on the cover adjacent to the second edge.

21. (Previously presented) The stent assembly of claim 16 wherein the cover on the stent extends from a first end of the stent to a second end of the stent.

22. (Previously presented) The stent assembly of claim 16 wherein the cover is formed of biocompatible, non-thrombogenic material.

23 - 48.(Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) A stent assembly, comprising an expandable tubular stent body which has a longitudinal axis, which is formed of a plurality of ring sections oriented perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and having an open undulated structure, which has at least one connecting support member extending between adjacent ring sections and which has The stent assembly of claim 16 wherein the stent cover [[is]] secured to the tubular stent body of the stent by the undulations of the at least one ring section at an end of the tubular stent body ring section which extend over an end portion of the stent cover.

50. (Previously presented) The stent assembly of claim 16 wherein a plurality of ring connectors extend between adjacent ring sections.

51-56. (Cancelled)